

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO RUEH SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2198

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NEW YORK 143

CINCLANT

S E C R E T LUANDA 1437

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR AO PINT MILI

SUBJECT MPLA PRESIDENT MEETS WITH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

1. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, ADMIRAL CARDOSO, MET WITH
MPLA PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO ON SEPTEMBER 24. NETO
HAD ASKED FOR THE APPOINTMENT, BUT REFUSED TO COME TO
THE PALACE, SO THEY MET AT THE NAVAL RADIO STATION
BEYOND MY RESIDENCE AND JUST ACROSS THE ROAD FROM THE
NEW UPPER CLASS DEVELOPMENT WHERE NETO BOUGHT A
HOME A FEW WEEKS AGO. CARDOSO TOLD ME ON SAPTEMBER 25
THAT HE HAD EXPECTED SOMETHING DRAMATIC BUT WAS
DISAPPOINTED. STILL, FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW, THE
CONVERSATION WAS OF INTEREST.

2. NETO OPENED BY RESPONDING TO CARDOSO'S EARLIER
ULTIMATUM TO HIM THAT HE WOULD NOT DEFEND LUANDA IF
MPLA TROOPS REMIANED IN THE CITY. NETO SAID MPLA WOULD
REMAIN IN THE CITY. HE SAID QUOTE IT IS OUR
RESPONSIBILITY TO DEFEND LUANDA. YOUR TROOPS ARE

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NOT INTERESTED AND IF WE RELY ON THEM WE MAY BE IN

FOR SOME UNPLEASANT SURPRISES UNQUOTE. CARDOSO ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT MPLA ADOPTED THIS POSITION PROBABLY BECAUSE LUANDA IS THE SEAT AND SYMBOL OF MPLA POWER; TO PULL OUT MPLA TROOPS WOULD TELEGRAPH TO THE WORLD THAT MPLA WAS NOT, IN FACT, IN FIRM CONTROL OF ITS HOMETOWN.

3. NETO THEN SUGGESTED THE PORTUGESE TROOPS CEASE PATROLLING WHITE-CONTROLLED AREAS AND LET THE MPLA TAKE OVER-PROTECTION OF THE "ASPHALT." (THE WORD HERE FOR BUSINESS DISTRICT AND WHITE NEIGHBORHOODS.) CARDOSO TURNED DOWN THE PROPOSITION AND SAID THAT THE SECURITY OF THE CITY IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE POLICE. IF THE POLICE ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN ORDER, HE ADDED, THE PORTUGESE MILITARY WILL BE PLEASED TO HELP OUT. HE SUGGESTED THAT MPLA AGREED TO THE IDEA.

4. NETO SAID HE WAS SURPRISED AT A RECENT INTERVIEW THE HIGH COMMISSIONER GAVE TO AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE IN WHICH HE SAID: 1) THAT PORTUGAL RECOGNIZED THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS; 2) PORTUGAL WOULD NOT ACCEPT A UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY THE MPLA; AND 3) THAT PORTUGAL MIGHT TAKE THE ENTIRE MATTER TO THE UNITED NATIONS. CARDOSO ASKED HIM WHAT HE WOULD DO: PORTUGAL AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY RECOGNIZE THE THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. NETO REPLIED THAT MPLA IS THE ONLY TRUE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE IN ANGOLA. HE REITERATED THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH FNLA AND STATED, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THAT THERE COULD BE NO ACCOMMODATION WITH UNITA. CARDOSO TOLD ME HE DOES NOT BELIEVE NETO WHEN HE TALKS ABOUT NO DEAL WITH UNITA.

5. NETO ASKED CARDOSO WHY THE PORTUGESE ARE DUMPING ARMS AND AMMUNITION INTO THE SEA FROM HELICOPTERS. CARDOSO REPLIED THE PORTUGESE ARE DOING NO SUCH THING BECAUSE IT WOULD BE AN EXTREMELY EXPENSIVE OPERATION. WHAT THEY ARE DOING IS DUMPING ARMS AND AMMUNITION INTO THE SEA FROM LCI'S. HE TOLD NETO THAT THE MATERIAL IS OUTDATED AND OF NO USE. I ASKED IF THAT WERE TRUE.

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HE SAID THAT AS A MATTER OF FACT HE DUMPING A LOT OF GOOD WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION INTO THE OCEAN. WHEN I ASKED HIM HOW MUCH HE WOULD SAY ONLY THAT IT IS MORE THAN ANYONE MIGHT IMAGINE. HE REMINDED ME THAT THE PORTUGESE HAD 70,000 TROOPS HERE BEFORE APRIL 25, 1964 AND THAT THE STORES OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION WERE COMMENSURATE WITH THAT FORCE. THE ADMIRAL WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE KNOWS HE PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO TURN OVER THE GOVERNMENT TO

ONE OR TWO LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND HE IS DAMNED IF HE WILL LEAVE BEHIND WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION FOR THEM TO CARRY ON THEIR FIGHT. IF THE MOVEMENTS WERE UNIFIED HE WOULD ADOPT ANOTHER POSITION, BUT AS THEY ARE SPLIT AND AT WAR AND THE MPLA CONTROLS THE AREAS WHERE MOST OF THE ARMS ARE STORED, HE IS DOING ALL WITHIN HIS POWER TO ENSURE THAT NO ONE HAS ACCESS TO PORTUGESE STORES.

6. AT ONE POINT NETO ASKED WHY THE HURRY TO GET TROOPS OUT OF ANGOLA, BUT LATER IN THE CONVERSATION SAID WHY WAIT UNTIL NOVEMBER 10 TO REMOVE THEM; THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE ARE BAD AND THEY ARE AN IRRITANT. CERDOSO REPLIED THAT THE PORTUGESE HAVE A PLAN AND THEY WILL STICK TO IT. BESIDES, HE ADDED, THE BAD RELATIONS ARE CAUSED BY THE MPLA-CONTROLLED MEDIA, WHICH LOSES NO OPPORTUNITY TO DENIGRATE THE PORTUGESE MILITARY.

7. CARDOSO HAD ASKED NETO EARLIER TO STOP MPLA INTERFERENCE WITH THE LOADING ABOARD SHIPS OF THE HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS OF DEPARTING PORTUGESE. AT THE MEETING NETO SAID MPLA WAS NOT INTERFERING, BUT THAT THE MOVEMENT WANTED TO STOP "VALUABLE MATERIAL" FROM LEAVING THE COUNTRY. CARDOSO AND NETO AGREED TO ESTABLISH A MIXED COMMISSION OF MPLA AND PORTUGESE TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTION.

8. FINALLY, NETO ASKED CARDOSO WHY PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES HAD ASKED PRESIDENT AMIN OF UGANDA TO COME TO ANGOLA. CARDOSO TOLD NETO THAT AS FAR AS HE KNOWS NO SUCH INVITATION HAD BEEN ISSUED.

9. CARDOSO REITERATED TO ME THE PORTUGESE POSITION THAT THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE ASSUMPTION OF POWER BY THE SECRET

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MPLA. HE IS CONVINCED THAT THE GOP WILL TURN JURISDICTION OVER TO THE UN RATHER THAN SEE COUNTRY FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE MPLA. HE SAID THAT THE MPLA CANNOT POSSIBLY HOPE TO HOLD OFF THE OTHER TWO MOVEMENTS. HE IS CONVINCED THAT BY LATE OCTOBER MPLA WILL ARRIVE AT AN ACCOMODATION WITH UNITA AND PERHAPS WITH FNLA, OR A FACTION WITHIN FNLA HEADED BY NGOLA KABANGU. HE AND I HAVE TALKED ABOUT THE FNLA CONNECTION OVER THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS AND HE MAINTAIN THAT COME INDEPENDENCE DAY HE HOPES TO GET SOMEONE FROM THE ORGANIZATION TO COME TO LUANDA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY.

KILLORAN

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